

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
April 9, 2013
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Boardmembers Evans, George, Heath¹, Powell, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Vice-Chair Grindeland

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Alex O'Reilly, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash²

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Evans to approve the February 12, 2013, Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

¹ Departed at 8:32 p.m.

² Via recording.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson made the following report:

- Attended the Bellevue Youth Theatre groundbreaking ceremony.
- Attended the Downtown Livability Forum for Bellevue businesses.
- Attended the community meeting for Downtown Park—"Inspiration" Playground.

Chair Robinson reminded Boardmembers that there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the Bellevue Botanical Garden's Visitor Center on April 23, 2013.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Attended the Bellevue Botanical Garden fundraiser.
- Visited Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Visited Meydenbauer Beach Park and Clyde Beach Park. Looking forward to future waterfront access expansion.

Boardmember Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center Volunteer Luncheon.
- Attended the West Lake Sammamish Parkway community meeting.
- Visited Weowna Park.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Met with Mr. Foran to review the Shoreline Master Plan information.
- Attended the Downtown Livability Committee meeting in March.
- Visited the off-leash area at Robinswood Park.
- Visited Mercer Slough.

Boardmember Heath attended a recent Bridle Trails Community Club event where community members discussed their frustrations and displeasure with the Utilities Department about a water tower. In addition, Boardmember Heath attended the Bellevue Police Foundation breakfast. One of the topics discussed was Bellevue Police Department's involvement in the recent Seattle shooting. Based upon these two meetings, Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of citizen outreach and engaging the community. It is important to preserve the positive reception that Bellevue Parks receives.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported on the following items:

- The City Manager is resigning in May. Brad Miyake (currently the Deputy City Manager) will be the Interim City Manager. An international search will be conducted to find a replacement for the City Manager position. In the meantime, Boardmembers are encouraged to meet and talk with Mr. Miyake.
- Boardmembers are encouraged to attend the Bellevue Botanical Gardens groundbreaking event.

Boardmembers received a token of appreciation to acknowledge National Volunteer Recognition Month. On behalf of staff and Councilmember Wallace, Mr. Foran thanked Boardmembers for their time and efforts.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Human Services Needs Update

Every two years, the Human Services Division staff prepares a comprehensive needs assessment, the Bellevue Human Services Needs Update, that presents an overview of the key health and human services issues and trends in Bellevue, and also references relevant regional, county, state and national data. Ms. O'Reilly provided an overview of the timeline for the 2013-2014 report, due to be released in early 2014.

Chair Robinson encouraged Ms. O'Reilly to include people who are hard of hearing in her focus groups. In particular, she suggested that Ms. O'Reilly contact Diana Thompson.

Boardmember Heath was very impressed by the planning that is being conducted and favors evidence-based practices. Ideally, Boardmember Heath would like to see evidence of the needs, and then work on creating efficiencies before asking for more money to meet those needs. He suggested that Bellevue work together with other non-profit agencies to reduce overhead and streamline operations so that the maximum percentage of funds possible reaches the end recipients.

Boardmember Powell applauded the Human Services Division for the work that is being conducted on the Human Services Needs Update. In addition, she questioned how much the City contributes for human services. Ms. O'Reilly discussed the formula for funding human service needs.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended Ms. O'Reilly for the informative presentation. He questioned if impacts to parks are identified in the updated report (e.g., increased homelessness in parks, etc.). Ms. O'Reilly explained that she plans on meeting with frontline staff (e.g., Bellevue's Probation staff, Park Rangers, etc.) and will discuss this issue. Mr. Smith added that the scholarship requests have increased due to a decline in community members' discretionary income.

Chair Robinson asked if there is a way to measure the impact of preventative services that the city provides. Ms. O'Reilly explained the challenges for measuring these impacts. Mr. Foran explained that Best Practices are often used to help measure impacts.

Boardmember George requested clarification regarding the data that will be available at the end of the month. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the phone and online survey results will be available. She offered to share the data with Boardmembers if desired.

Boardmember George felt that the Human Services Needs Update should have been presented to Boardmembers after the data was collected. Although Ms. O'Reilly presented the information well, Boardmember George felt that the subject matter was not timely. Chair Robinson felt that Ms. O'Reilly's presentation was extremely timely so Boardmembers could provide input on the planning process. Mr. Foran added that Ms. O'Reilly's presentation was not intended to be a report on the findings.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if exit interviews are conducted on people that stop using services. Mr. Smith explained that the various human service agencies utilized would need to gather their own information about people that leave or no longer need human service program(s). The City conducts satisfaction surveys for city-related programs offered. In addition, Ms. O'Reilly explained that the funded agencies are required to submit quarterly reports with outputs and outcomes. This information is not referred to in the needs update, but the data is collected.

Boardmember George questioned why the Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) was not on the meeting agenda. Mr. Foran explained that the Park Board's written comments regarding the SMP, originally sent to the Planning Commission, were included in the City Council packet materials. This information, along with the Environmental Services Commission recommendations, is to be transmitted with the Planning Commission's recommendations to City Council. Mr. Foran added that everyone will have a review opportunity after the Department of Ecology submits their comments. The Council now has all of the written comments that were originally forwarded to the Planning Commission.

Boardmember Evans called attention to a letter that was sent from the Park Board to the Planning Commission approximately two years ago about the Shoreline Master Plan. Ultimately, he thought the Planning Commission dismissed the Park Board's letter because the letter was not well written or prepared. Boardmember Evans suggested that the Park Board review all of the letters that they have sent to the Planning Commission to determine if other letters were overlooked. Other Boardmembers expressed their frustration with the lack of response from the Planning Commission regarding Park Board questions and comments.

B. CIP/Park Levy Projects Update

Mr. Kost provided a progress report/PowerPoint presentation on the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy and other major Parks CIP projects.

Completed projects include:

- Wilburton Hill Park—Synthetic Turf.
- Newport Hills Park—Synthetic Turf.
- Suspension Bridge at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.
- Lewis Creek Picnic Area.
- Property acquisition near Eastgate Park.
- Property acquisition near Richards Valley Greenway, Newport Hills Neighborhood Park, and Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park.
- Trail Improvements in the Richards Valley Greenway and Coal Creek Natural Area.

Upcoming projects include:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center.
- Bellevue Youth Theatre.
- NE 24th Street Park.
- Hidden Valley Partnership.

Projects that are currently in the planning stage include:

- Downtown Park—Complete the Circle
Boardmembers discussed some of the details of the Downtown Park project, in particular parking. Mr. Kost clarified that the number of parking spots will remain the same, but that the existing parking along NE 2nd Street will be replaced by an expanded parking lot along 100th Avenue NE on the west side of the park. In addition, Mr. Foran added that there is an incentive for new development to have underground parking. The basic core design of the park was intended to be flexible and provide as much open space as possible. Mr. Foran explained that the original vision in the 1997 Master Plan Update exactly meets the needs of a downtown urban park.
- Downtown Park—“Inspiration” Playground
Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked how the “Inspiration” Playground will impact the levy funds or matching CIP funds. Mr. Foran clarified that the original intention was to be able to utilize additional matching funds to complete the Northeast Entry but this did not make it through the CIP process. Therefore, there is currently no impact on the funding.
- Lake Sammamish Park Waterfront
- Airfield Park Phase 1 Development
- Meydenbauer Beach Park Phase 1 Construction
Mr. Kost discussed some of the plans for the docks and piers.

- **Surrey Downs Park**

Mr. Kost clarified that vehicle access from 112th Avenue SE will be eliminated when light rail is instituted. Boardmember Powell asked if other properties will be acquired along 112th Avenue SE to add to the park acreage. Mr. Kost discussed the strips of properties that will be acquired along 112th Avenue SE, north and south of the park, that will likely become part of the park.

Boardmember Evans questioned why playfields were included in the Surrey Downs Master Plan. Mr. Kost clarified that the Master Plan was developed before the light rail routes and plans were finalized.

Chair Robinson suggested that bike lanes be included in the light rail buffers.

Mr. Kost and Mr. Foran discussed some of the changes that are going to occur to Surrey Downs Park. Overall, the park will need to be reconfigured and the Master Plan will be revised/updated.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried (4-2).

Mr. Foran discussed the borrowing techniques used by the City to front-load the CIP. These funds will be paid back from tax proceeds.

Chair Robinson suggested that a levy project update be added to the City's website so community members can stay informed.

10. **BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Network on Aging

Chair Robinson reported that the BNOA met with Representative Smith to advocate for passage of the Medicare Accessibility Act of 2013. In addition, the BNOA discussed looping and the benefits of this technology to aid the hearing-impaired. She requested that these be added to Council Chambers. Mr. Kost clarified that staff is looking into the feasibility and cost of looping in the Bellevue Youth Theatre and Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center projects.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

C. Transit Master Plan

Boardmember Evans reported that the Transit Committee continues to conduct outreach.

D. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell reported that the Downtown Livability Advisory Committee meeting schedule is currently being determined.

E. Other Groups

No report.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

- Boardmember Evans would like to determine an off-site location for a future Board meeting.
- Chair Robinson would like to discuss the need and feasibility for a Downtown Senior Center (dedicated for seniors). Mr. Smith clarified that Ms. VonWald will be updating the older adult vision/plan. Chair Robinson requested that Ms. VonWald make a presentation to the Park Board about the vision/plan. In addition, Boardmember Evans requested demographics information for seniors (i.e., where are they living?).
- Boardmember Van Hollebeke would like a formal presentation on the Shoreline Master Plan. Mr. Foran explained that future presentations are awaiting Council's consideration of the information.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo to Boards and Commissions from Myra Basich, City Clerk, re 2013 City Council Elections

C. Memo to City Council from Mayor Lee re Appointment of Downtown Livability Advisory Committee

D. Memo to Park Board from Nancy Kartes, Bellevue Botanical Garden Manager, re Visitor Center construction

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting is scheduled for May 14

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).